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Imagery analysis report

Airborne Activity at Riga, USSR (S)

Secret

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**AIRBORNE ACTIVITY AT RIGA, USSR (S)**

1. (S/D) Elements of an airborne division, consisting of at least one BMD-equipped airborne regiment and divisional artillery assets, were in the Baltic Military District at Riga Training Area 1 [ ] USSR, on [ ] At least 11 of the BMD were of a variant previously unobserved. No airborne-related training activity or deployment has been reported previously in the Riga area.

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2. (S/D) At least one BMD-equipped airborne regiment was bivouacked at 57-11-00N 024-22-41E (Figure 1). Equipment included five confirmed and at least six probable new variant BMD airborne amphibious combat vehicles, ten BMD M-1979, 37 GAZ-66 trucks, 12 trucks, four trailers, and 116 tents (two large, seven medium, and 107 squad-size). The new BMD variant (Figure 2) consisted of a BMD M-1979 chassis with a center-mounted turret. Two parallel hatches were centered on the turret which differs from the one-hatch arrangement observed on the standard BMD and from the BMD M-1979 which has no turret. Although the vehicle's main armament could not be determined, it appeared to be similar to the 73mm gun mounted on the standard BMD.

3. (S/D) Divisional and regimental artillery assets were immediately north of the regimental bivouac. At least three MRL M-1979 multiple rocket launchers, fifteen 122mm howitzers D-30, and twelve 85mm auxiliary propelled antitank guns were deployed in battery. At least 26 GAZ-66 trucks were also in this area. The divisional assault gun battalion with support elements appeared to be entraining at a rail-loading ramp at the west edge of the training area at 57-10-49N 024-19-27E (Figure 3). The train, oriented northeast, consisted of 23 flatcars carrying 18 ASU-85 assault guns, one BMD M-1979, five GAZ-66 trucks, 13 trucks, six trailers, and one UAZ-69; six passenger cars; and one locomotive. Approximately 75 personnel were assembled near the passenger cars. In addition, at least 12 BMD (two probable) were observed at nearby Riga Army Barracks Ropazi AL-26 [ ] No airborne training was observed in this area on [ ] The activity observed on [ ] had terminated by [ ]

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25X1**Imagery Analyst's Comments**

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**DOCUMENT**

1. DIA. DDB-1100-UR-79, *Ground Order of Battle (GOB)—USSR (U)*, Aug 79 (SECRET)

(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to [ ] Warsaw Pact Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, [ ]

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